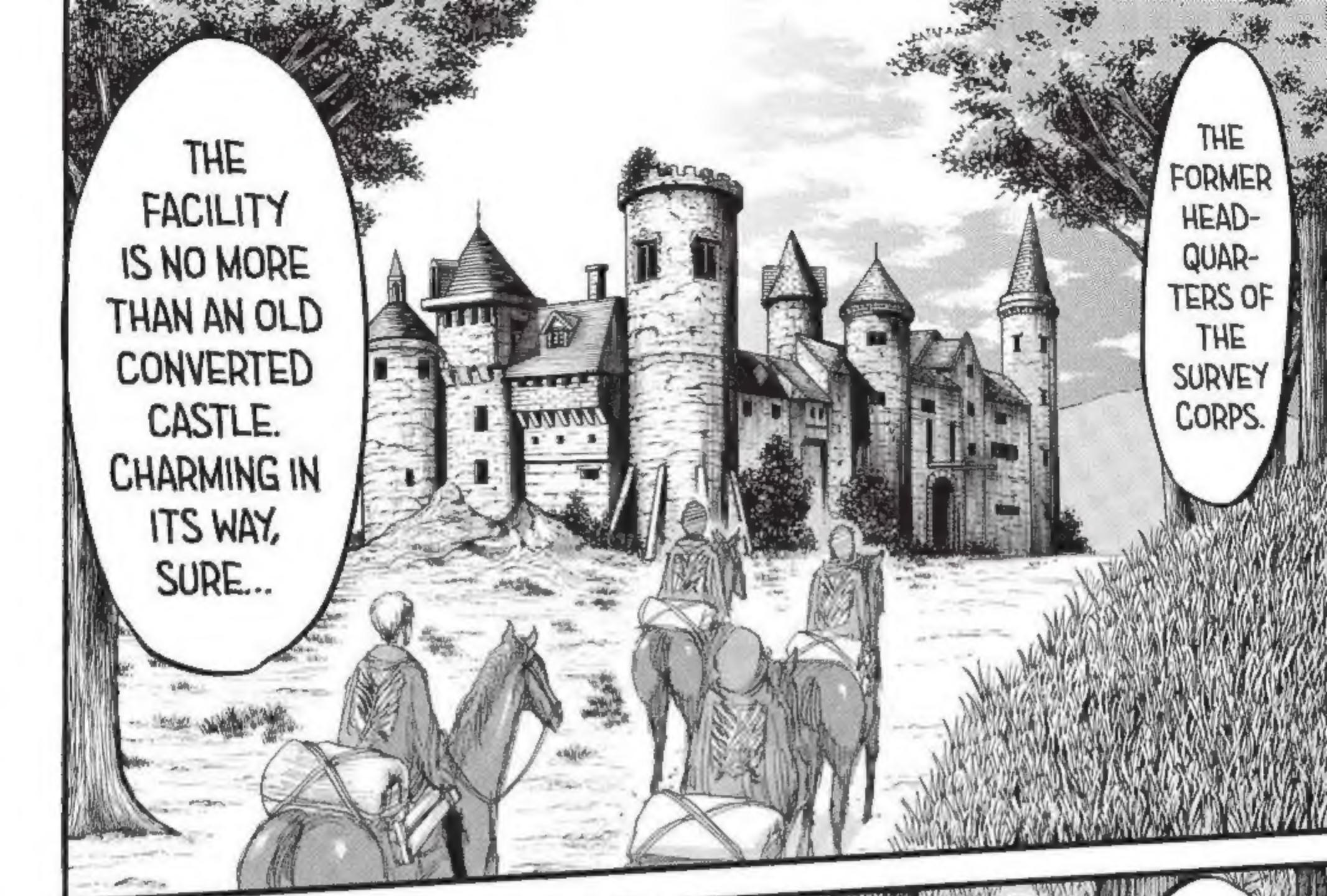





Episode 20: Special Operations Squad



THE
FACILITY
IS NO MORE
THAN AN OLD
CONVERTED
CASTLE.
CHARMING IN
ITS WAY,
SURE...

THE
FORMER
HEAD-
QUAR-
TERS OF
THE
SURVEY
CORPS.



WHO
WOULD'VE
FIGURED
...

BACK
THEN THE
CORPS HAD
JUST BEEN
FORMED, AND
THE SOLDIERS
WERE STILL
FULL OF
AMBITION
...



...WAS
WORSE
THAN
USELESS
TO THE
SURVEY
CORPS.

...BUT
AN HQ
THIS FAR
FROM
BOTH THE
WALL AND
THE
RIVER...



...THAT THIS
OVERSIZED
DECORATION
WOULD BE
THE BEST
PLACE TO
KEEP YOU
LOCKED
UP?





I
THINK HE
WAS JUST
SURPRISED
BY WHAT A
FOOL YOU
ARE,
OLUO.

THAT
ROOKIE
WAS
QUAK-
ING IN
HIS
BOOTS.

...I WAS
MAKING
A FIRST
IMPRES-
SION.

BLATHER-
ING LIKE THAT
ON A HORSE...
OF COURSE
YOU'RE GOING
TO BITE
YOUR
TONGUE.



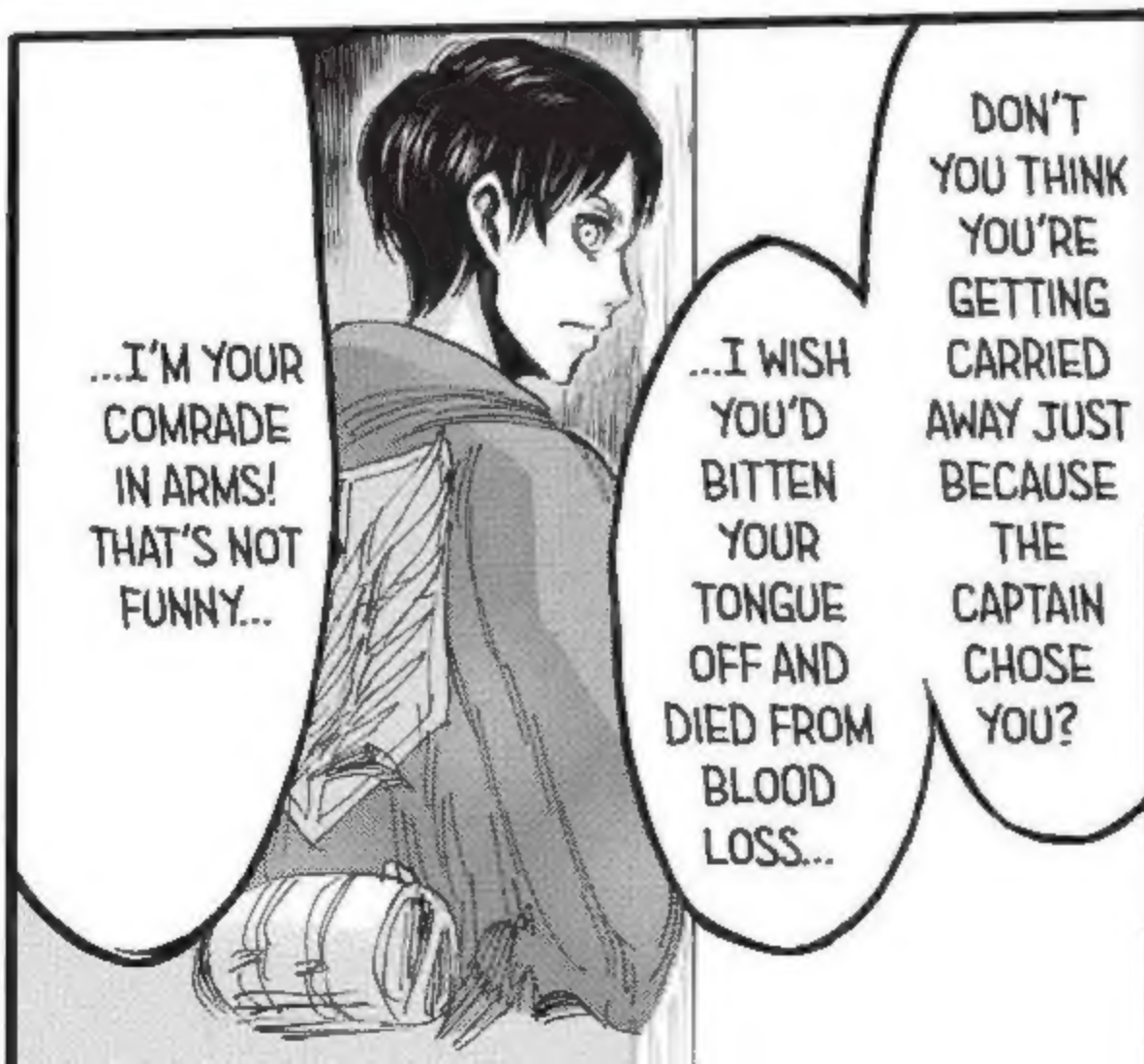
I MEAN...
YOU HAVE
ABSO-
LUTELY
NOTHING IN
COMMON
WITH HIM.

IF...
AND THIS IS
JUST A GUESS...
BUT IF YOU ARE
TRYING TO
IMITATE CAPTAIN
LEVI... JUST
STOP IT, WOULD
YOU?



...YOU
KNOW, YOU
NEVER
USED TO
TALK LIKE
THIS.

...AT
ANY RATE,
HE'S JUST
WHAT I
EXPECT-
ED.



...I'M YOUR
COMRADE
IN ARMS!
THAT'S NOT
FUNNY...

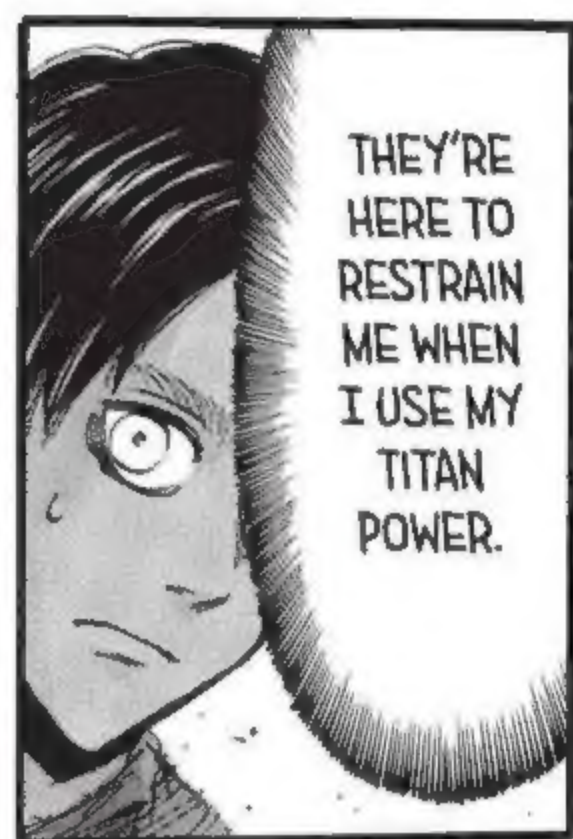
...I WISH
YOU'D
BITTEN
YOUR
TONGUE
OFF AND
DIED FROM
BLOOD
LOSS...

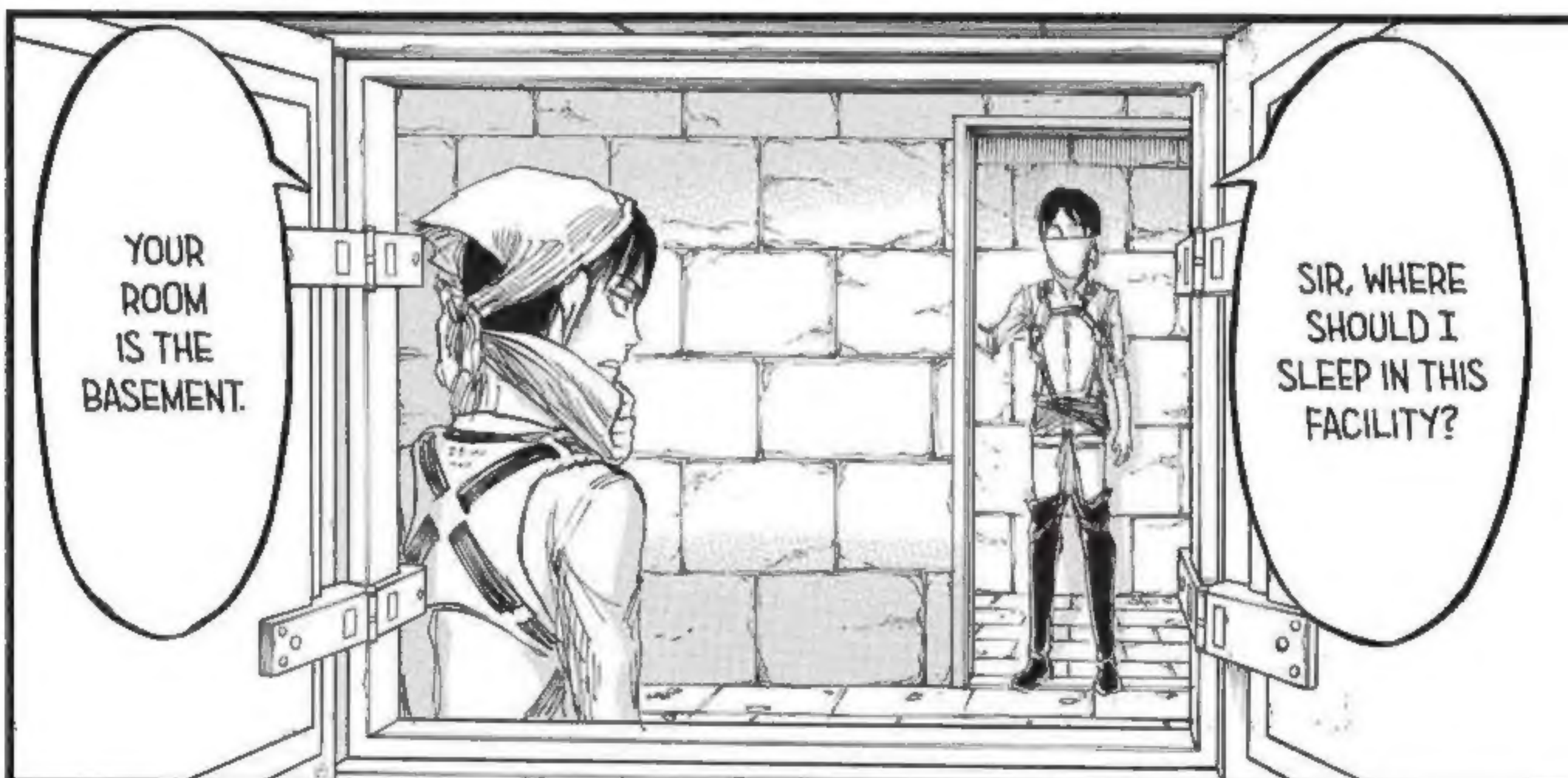
DON'T
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
GETTING
CARRIED
AWAY JUST
BECAUSE
THE
CAPTAIN
CHOSE
YOU?

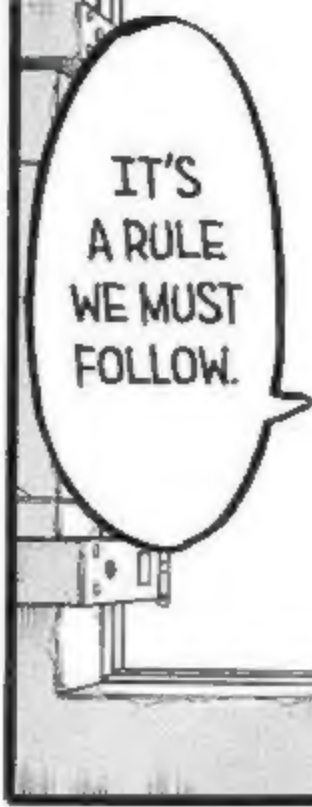


HEH...
WHAT, ARE YOU
TRYING TO REIN
ME IN, PETRA?
IF YOU WANNA
ACT LIKE MY
WIFE, THERE
ARE A COUPLE
STEPS YOU
SKIPPED.

...!!







IT'S
A RULE
WE MUST
FOLLOW.



THAT'S
ONE OF THE
CONDITIONS
WE WERE
GIVEN WHEN
THEY PLACED
YOU IN OUR
CUSTODY.



YES,
SIR...

DO
THIS
ONE.



I'M
GOING
TO CHECK
OUT THE
ROOMS
YOU
CLEANED.



IT
ISN'T AN
UNUSUAL
RE-
ACTION.



SORRY
?



YOU
LOOK
DIS-
APPOINT-
ED.



...HIGH-
STRUNG,
ILL-
MANNERED,
AND UN-
APPROACH-
ABLE.

...IS
UN-
EX-
PECT-
EDLY
SHORT
...

THE
REAL
CAPTAIN
LEVL...



HE DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE THE
PERFECT HERO
THAT PEOPLE
MAKE HIM OUT
TO BE, DOES
HE?

YOU THOUGHT BECAUSE
HE CARRIES A LOT OF
WEIGHT, THAT HE WOULDN'T
BE CONCERNED WITH RANK
OR THE COMMAND
STRUCTURE?



...WAS
HOW
OBEDIENTLY
HE ACCEPTS
DECISIONS
FROM
ABOVE.



NO...
WHAT
TOOK ME
BY
SURPRISE
...

RIGHT... I
THOUGHT HE
WOULDN'T TAKE
ORDERS FROM
ANYBODY...



THE
COM-
MANDER
DID?!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED, BUT
SOME PEOPLE
SAY COMMANDER
ERWIN BROUGHT
HIM INTO THE
CORPS.



I HEARD
THAT BEFORE
CAPTAIN LEVI
JOINED THE
SURVEY CORPS,
HE WAS A
NOTORIOUS THUG
IN THE CITY'S
UNDERGROUND
MARKET.



I DON'T
KNOW ALL
THE DETAILS...
BUT I THINK
HE USED TO
BE PRETTY
CLOSE TO
THAT.

DO
IT ALL
AGAIN.

YOU
CALL
THAT
CLEAN
?!

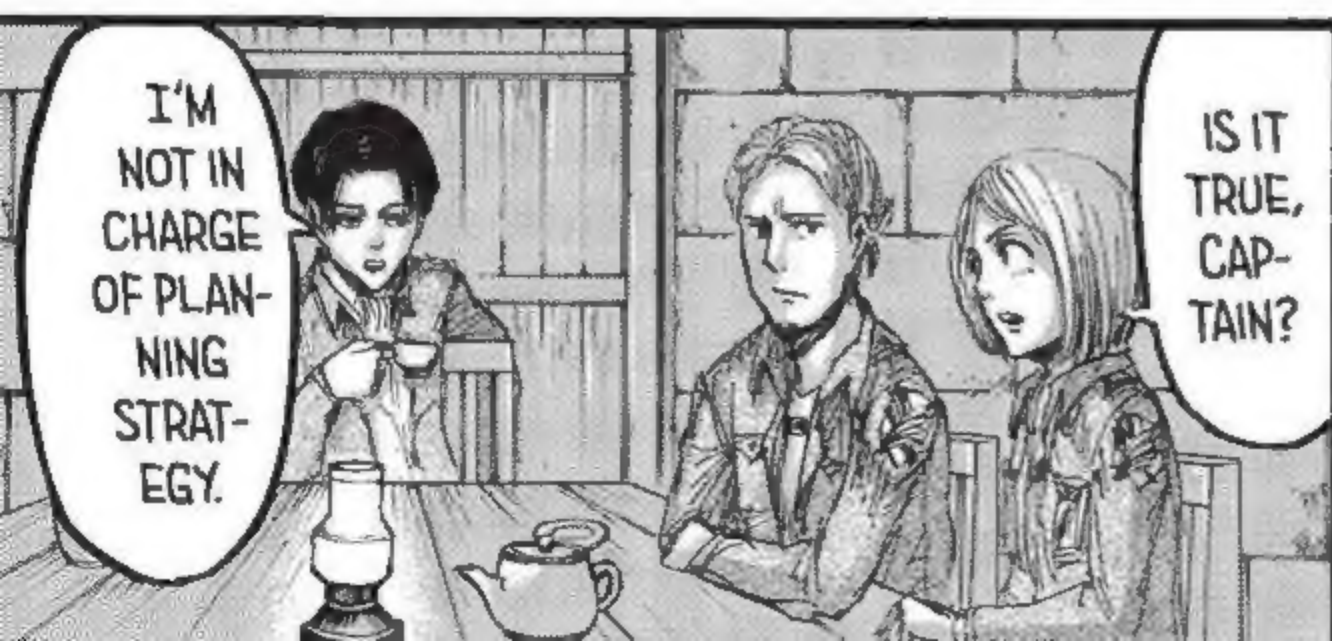
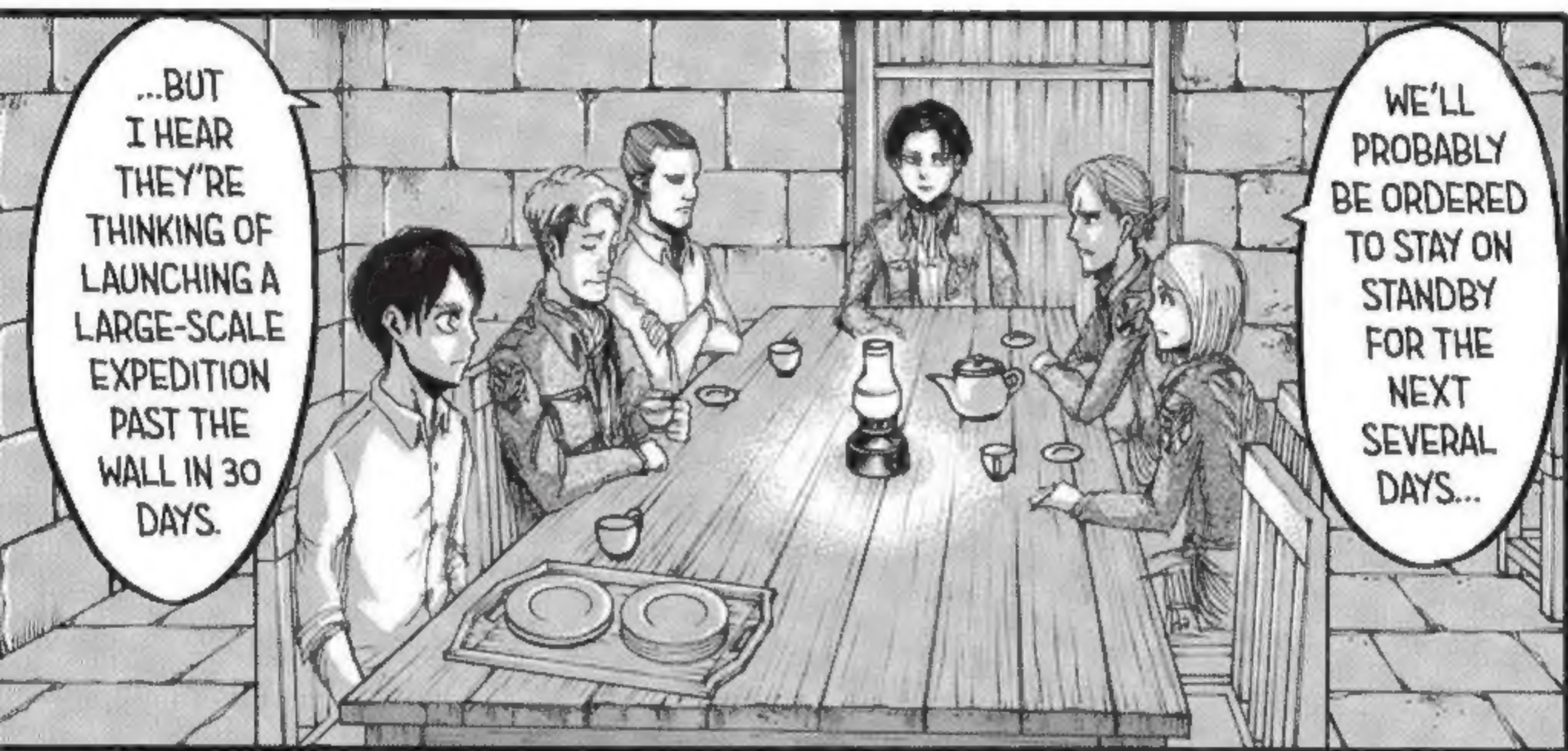
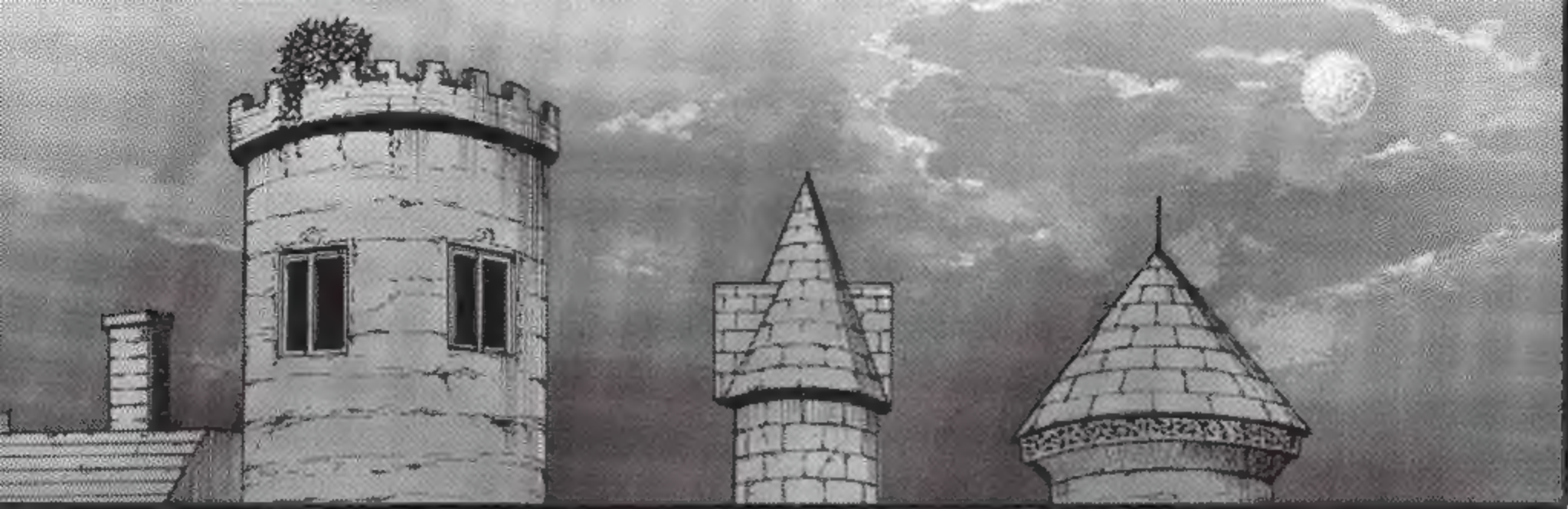


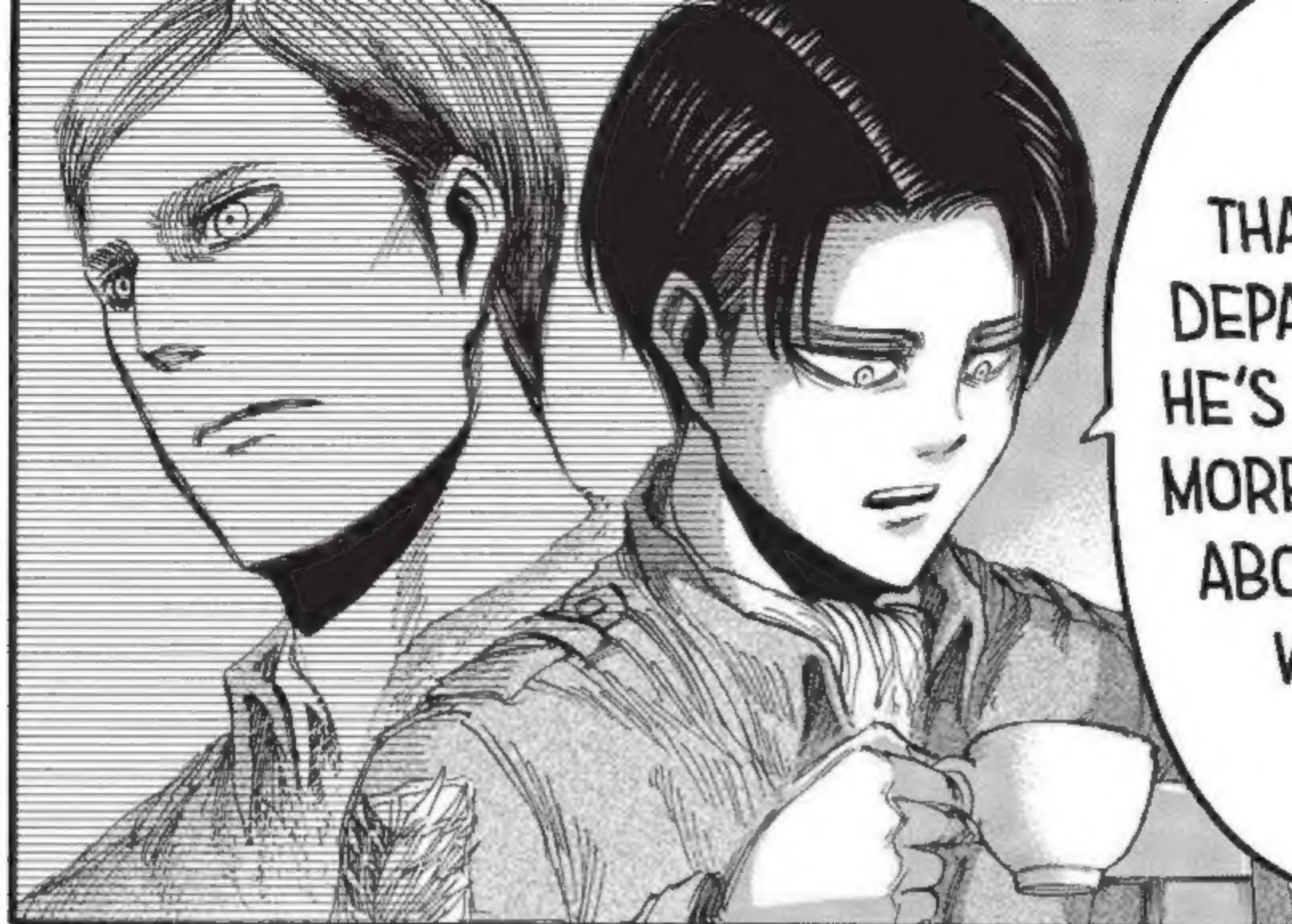
Y-
YES,
SIR
!!



HEY
...
EREN.



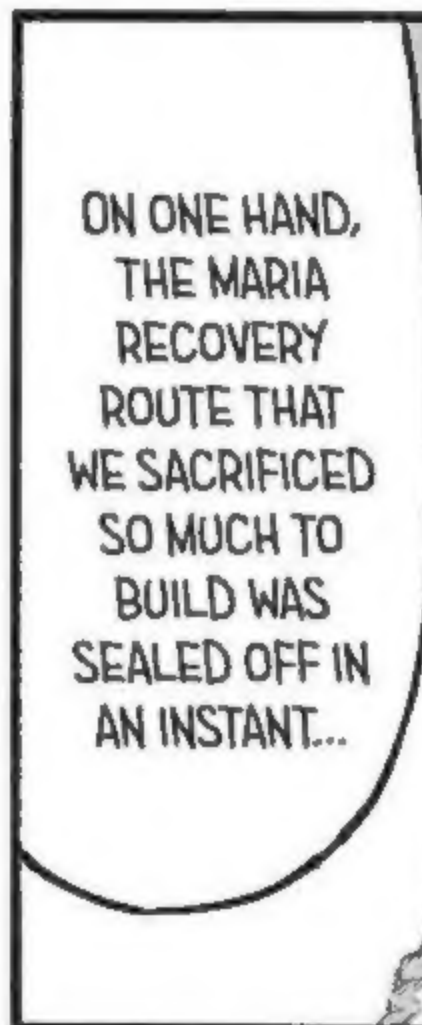




THAT'S **HIS**
DEPARTMENT...
HE'S GOT A LOT
MORE TO THINK
ABOUT THAN
WE DO.



...BUT A
COMPLETELY
NEW HOPE
HAS SPRUNG
UP IN ITS
PLACE.



ON ONE HAND,
THE MARIA
RECOVERY
ROUTE THAT
WE SACRIFICED
SO MUCH TO
BUILD WAS
SEALED OFF IN
AN INSTANT...

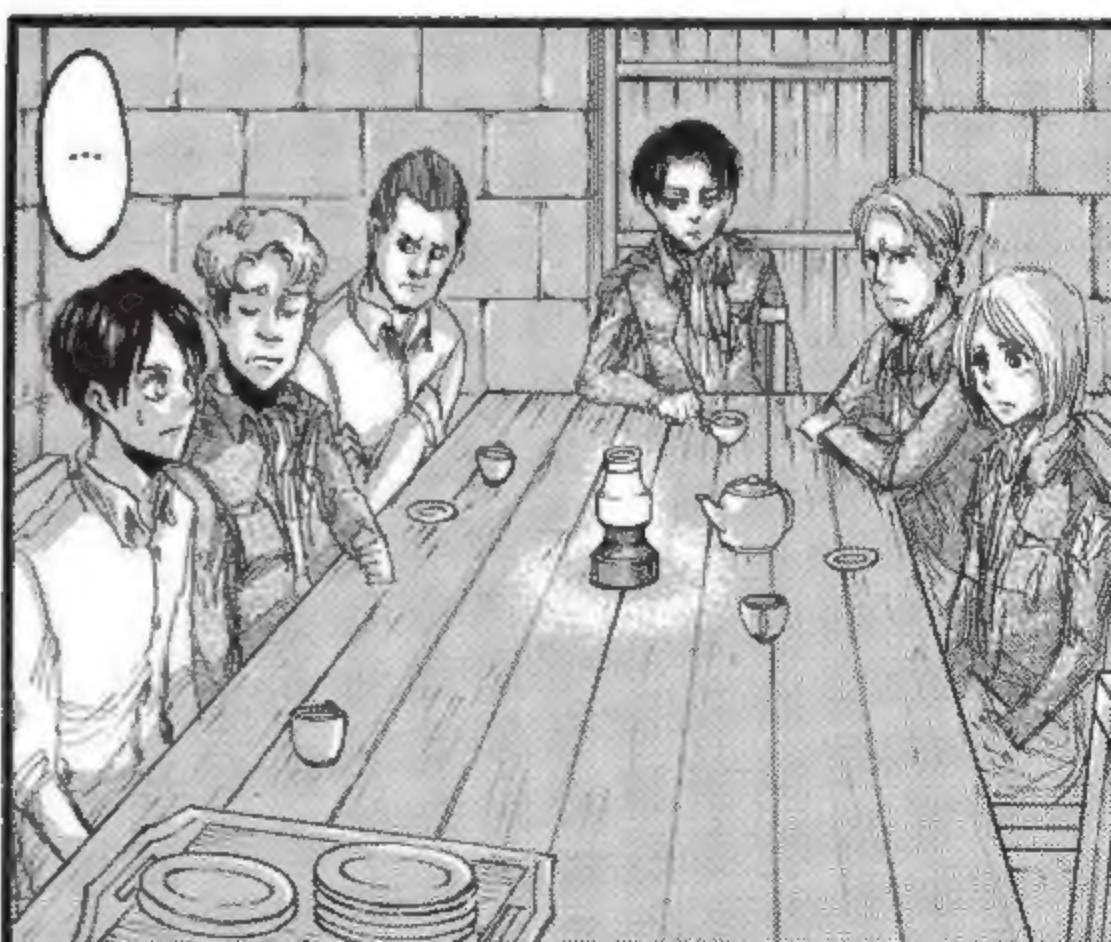


THAT'S
TRUE... THE
CIRCUM-
STANCES
HAVE
CHANGED
SO MUCH.



...BUT
WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN YOU
"BECOME"
A TITAN,
EREN?

...IT'S
STILL
HARD TO
BELIEVE
...





HUH?
00



I DO
KNOW THAT
THE TRIGGER
IS SELF-
INFLECTED
PAIN. I BITE
MY HAND
LIKE...

...BUT
IT'S LIKE
I LOSE
TRACK
OF
MYSELF.

...MY
MEMORIES
OF IT
AREN'T
REALLY
CLEAR...



...YOU
MAY NOT
ASK HIM
ANY-
THING
PAST
WHAT'S
IN THE
REPORT.

I'M
SURE
YOU'RE
ALL
AWARE,
BUT...

000
COME TO
THINK OF IT,
HOW DID I
KNOW TO
DO THAT?



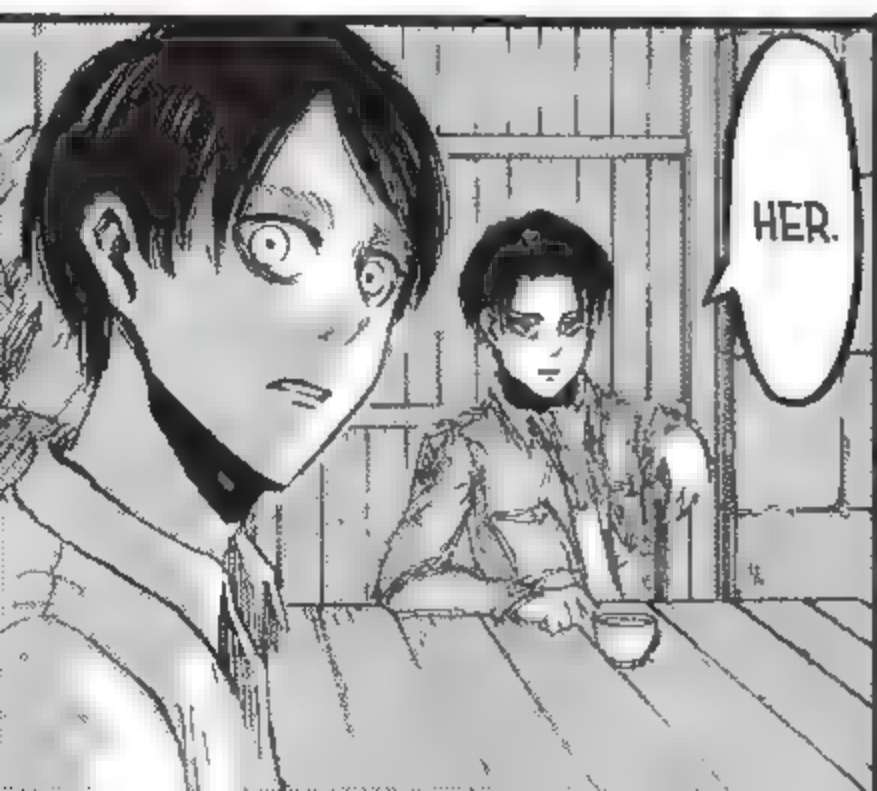
SHE
...?

EH
...?



IF SHE
SCREWS UP
WHILE POKING
AND PRODDING
YOU, IT MAY BE
THE DEATH OF
YOU, EREN.

AL-
THOUGH
I DOUBT
SHE'LL
KEEP HER
MOUTH
SHUT.

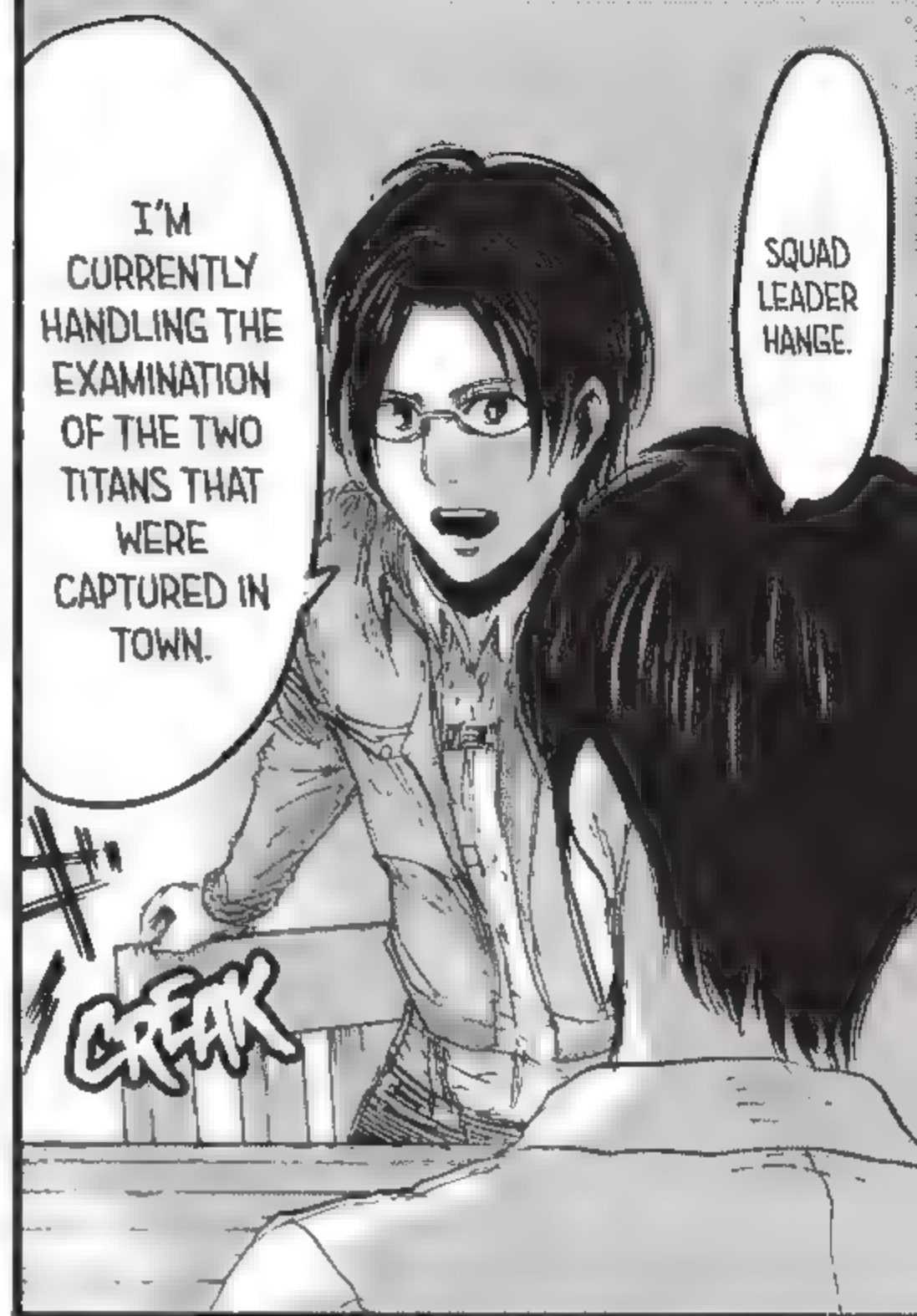


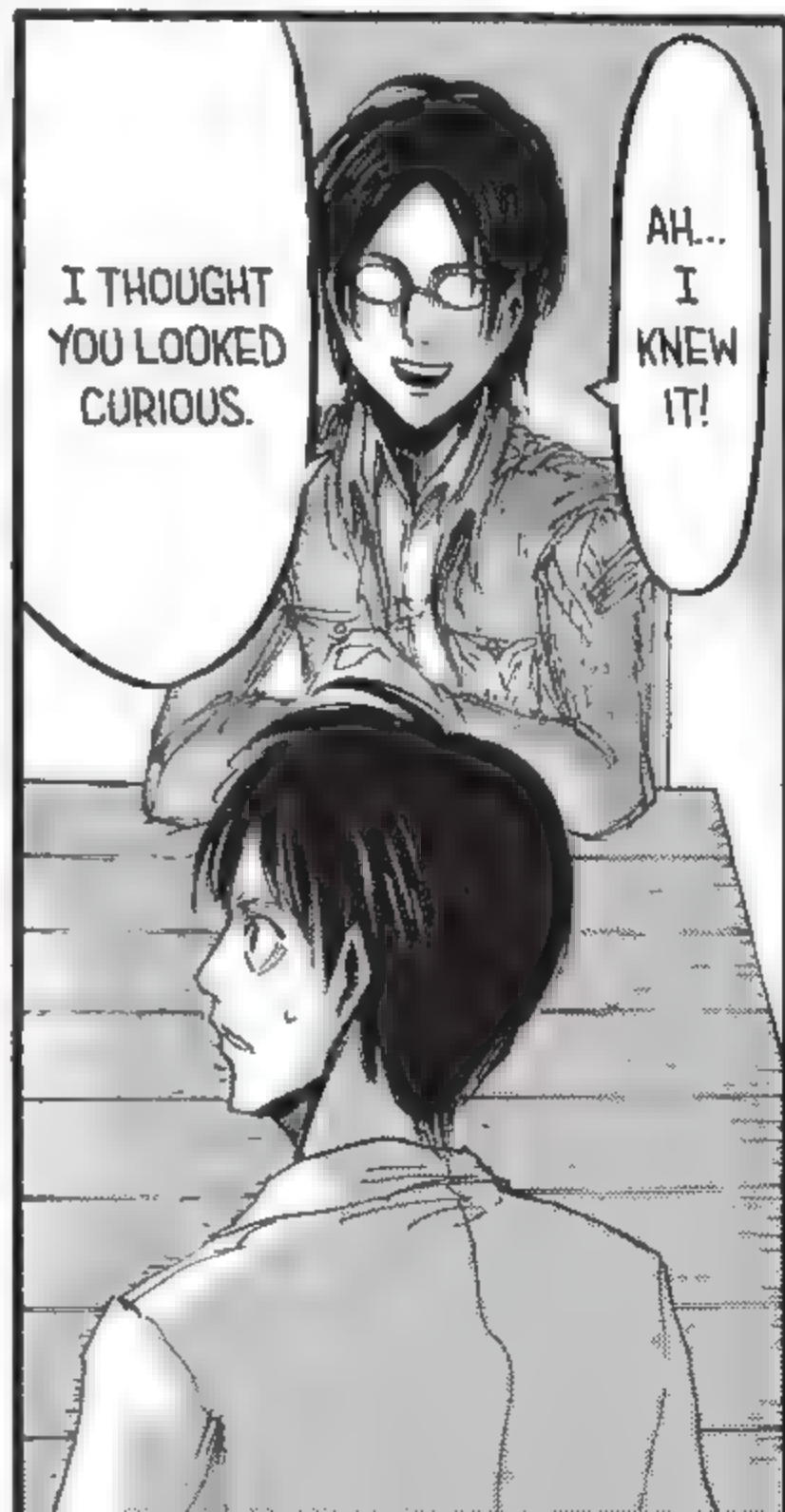
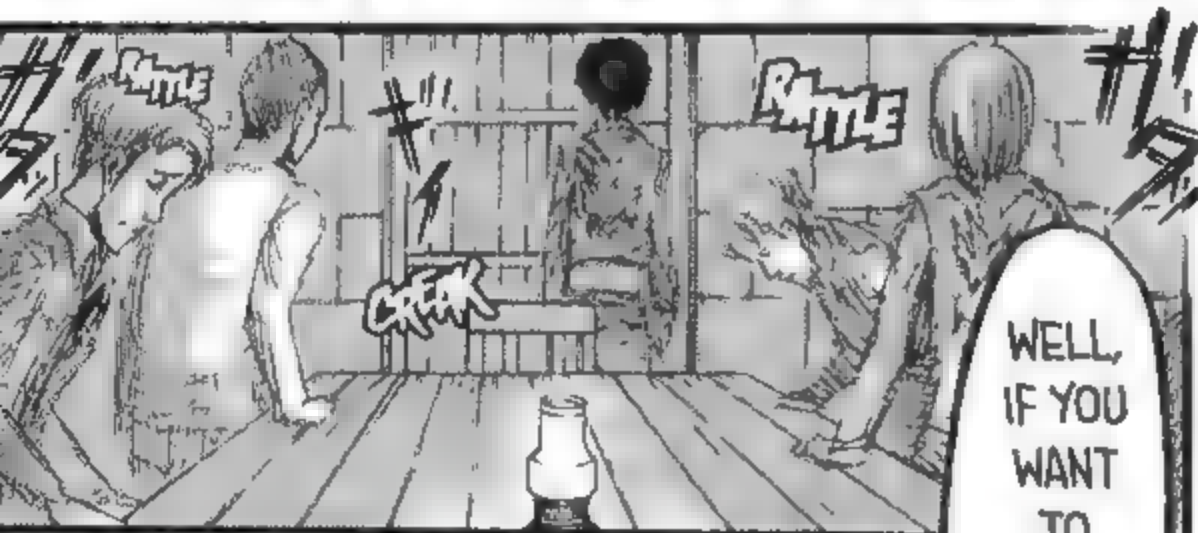
HER.



IS THE
CASTLE
COMFORT-
ABLE?

KA-CHA
HI
THERE,
**SQUAD
LEVI!**







FIRST, I
REPEATED THE
EXPERIMENT
WE TRIED FIVE
TIMES IN THE
PAST,
WHENEVER WE
HAD A CAPTIVE
TITAN: AN
ATTEMPT TO
COMMUNICATE.


DOES
IT
HURT?

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?

SQUAD
LEADER,
YOU'RE
TOO
CLOSE.

THIS ISN'T
THE FIRST
TIME
WE'VE
SUCCESS-
FULLY
SNARED A
TITAN.



HOWEVER, THE
TIME I SPENT
INTERACTING
WITH THE
TITANS WAS SO
FASCINATING
THAT IT MADE
ME FORGET HOW
EXHAUSTED I
WAS.

TOO
CLOSE
!!

THAT
WAS
CLOSE
!!


W
H
O
A
!!

UNFORTUNATELY,
I WAS FORCED TO
CONCLUDE THAT
MEANINGFUL
CONVERSATION IS
IMPOSSIBLE.

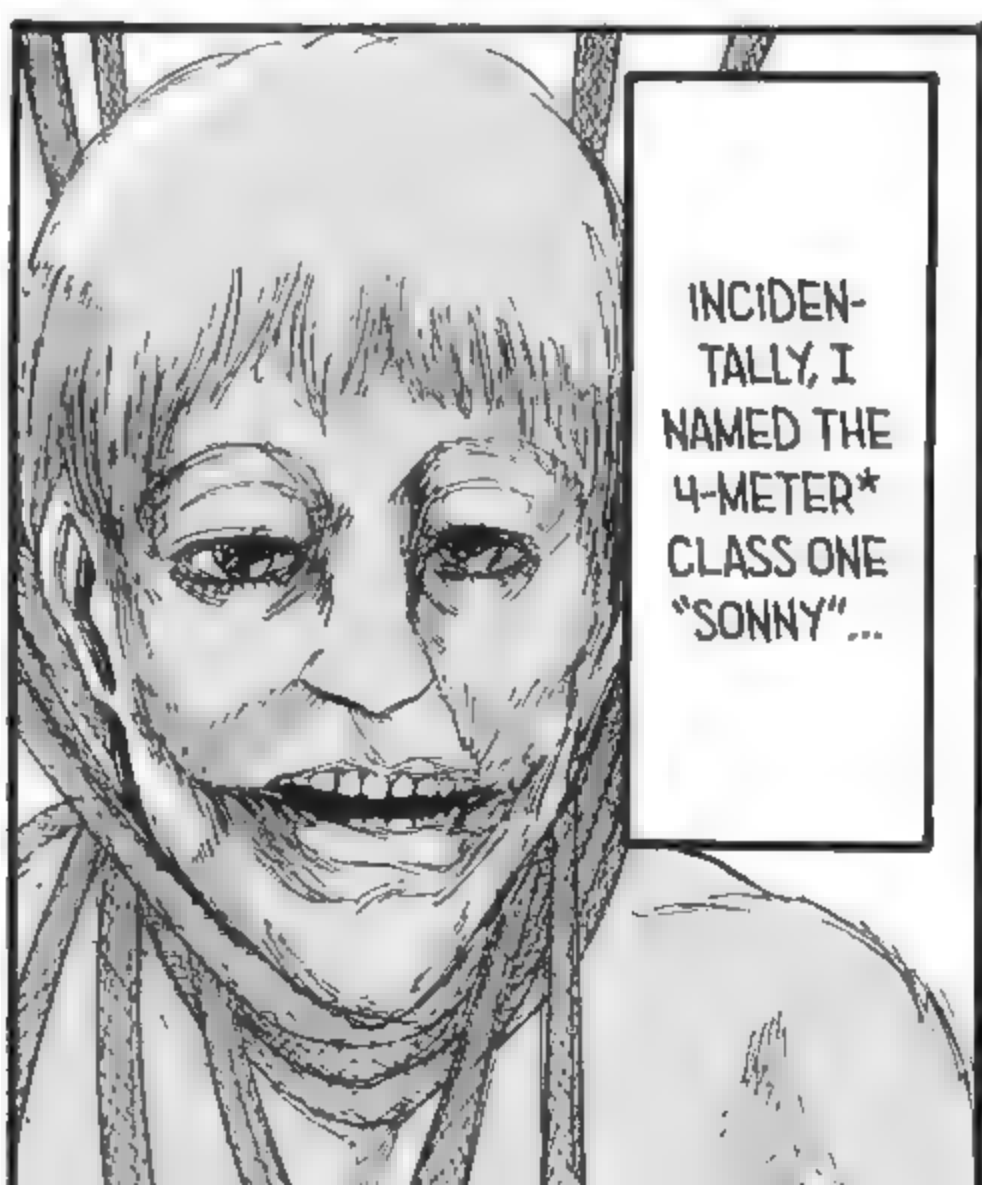
SQUAD
LEADER
!!
THAT'S
DANGER-
OUS!!

SNAP

* ABOUT 13 FEET AND 23 FEET, RESPECTIVELY.

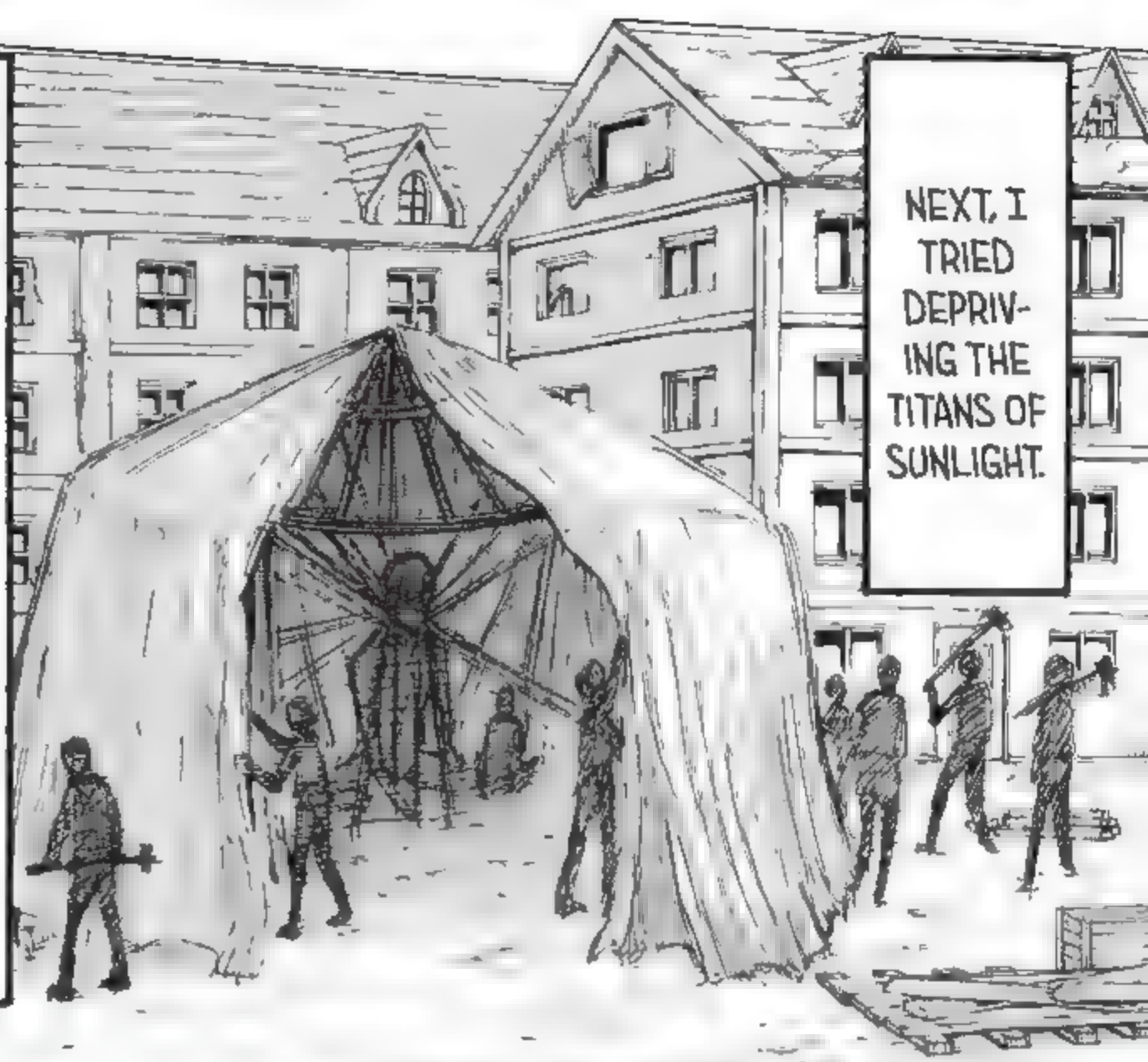


...AND THE
7-METER*
CLASS ONE
"BEAN."



INCIDEN-
TALLY, I
NAMED THE
4-METER*
CLASS ONE
"SONNY"...

TITANS BECOME LESS
ENERGETIC AS NIGHT
WEARS ON, SO THIS
EXPERIMENT
TESTED THE
HYPOTHESIS THAT
THEY DERIVE
SOMETHING FROM
SUNLIGHT THAT GIVES
THEM VITALITY.



NEXT, I
TRIED
DEPRIV-
ING THE
TITANS OF
SUNLIGHT.


...BEAN
WAS AS
FRISKY AS
EVER FOR
THREE
HOURS
STRAIGHT.



WHEREAS
SONNY
BECAME
LETHARGIC
AFTER JUST
ONE HOUR
WITHOUT
SUNLIGHT...


HERE,
THE
TITANS
SHOWED
INDIVIDUAL
DIFFER-
ENCES.





THEY DON'T
NEED FOOD OR
WATER, AND EVEN
THOUGH THEY HAVE
VOCAL CORDS, IT
ISN'T NECESSARY
FOR THEM TO
BREATHE... ALL
THEY REQUIRE IS
SUNLIGHT...

I WAS
SURPRISED
YET
AGAIN...



...BUT IF IT
KILLED THEM,
IT'D BE THE
END OF MY
EXPERIMENTS.

I'M
INTERESTED
IN WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF THEY
WERE CUT OFF
COMPLETELY
FROM
SUNLIGHT...

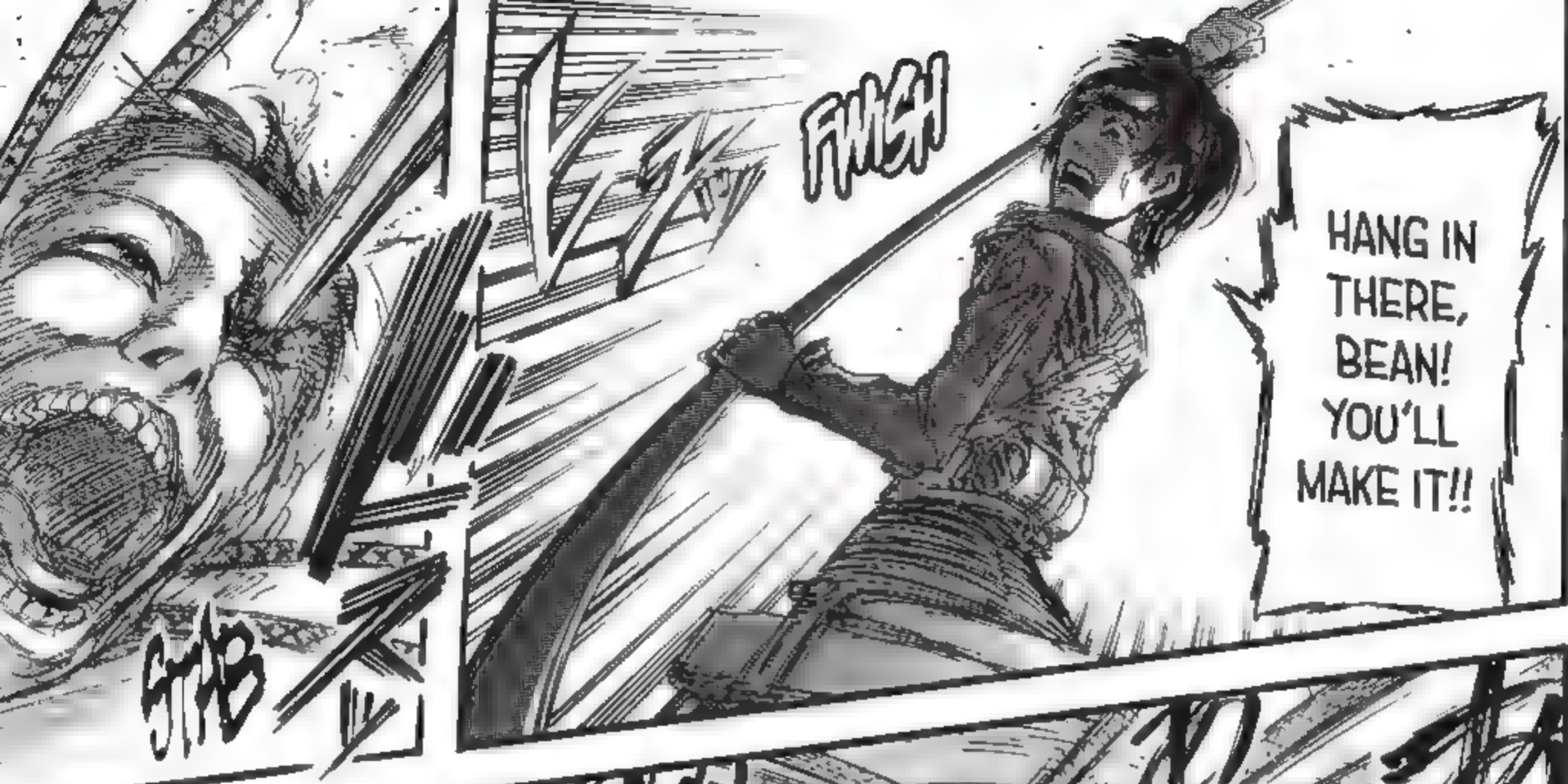


I
EXPLORED
THEIR
SENSE OF
PAIN.



SO I
MOVED
ON TO THE
NEXT STAGE:
DIRECT
CONTACT WITH
THE TITANS'
BODIES!

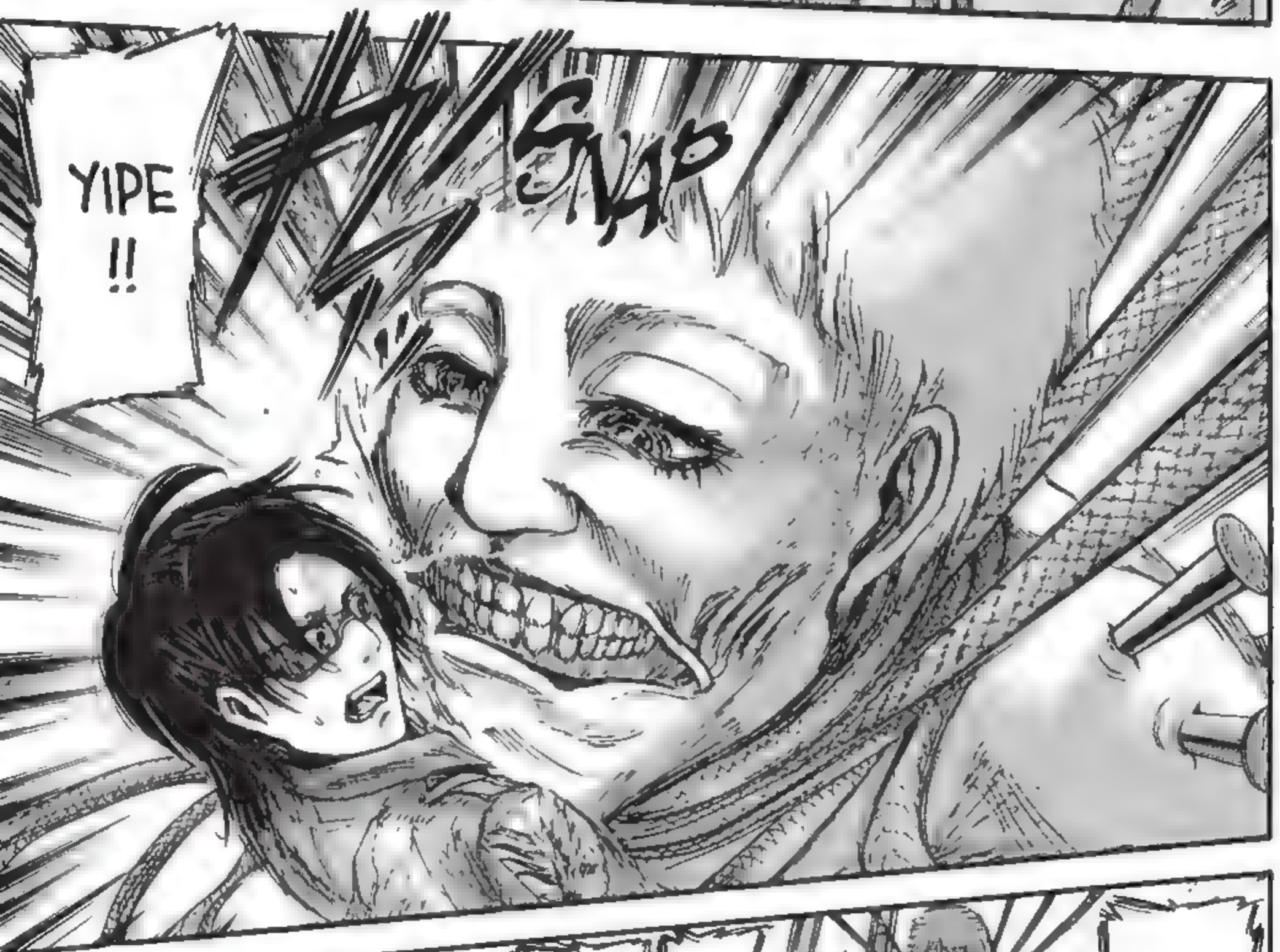




HANG IN
THERE,
BEAN!
YOU'LL
MAKE IT!!









IT WAS AS
I KICKED THE
DECAPITATED
HEAD OF A
3-METER*
CLASS TITAN.

AND
THEN, ONE
DAY, I
REALIZED
SOME-
THING.

* ABOUT 10 FEET.

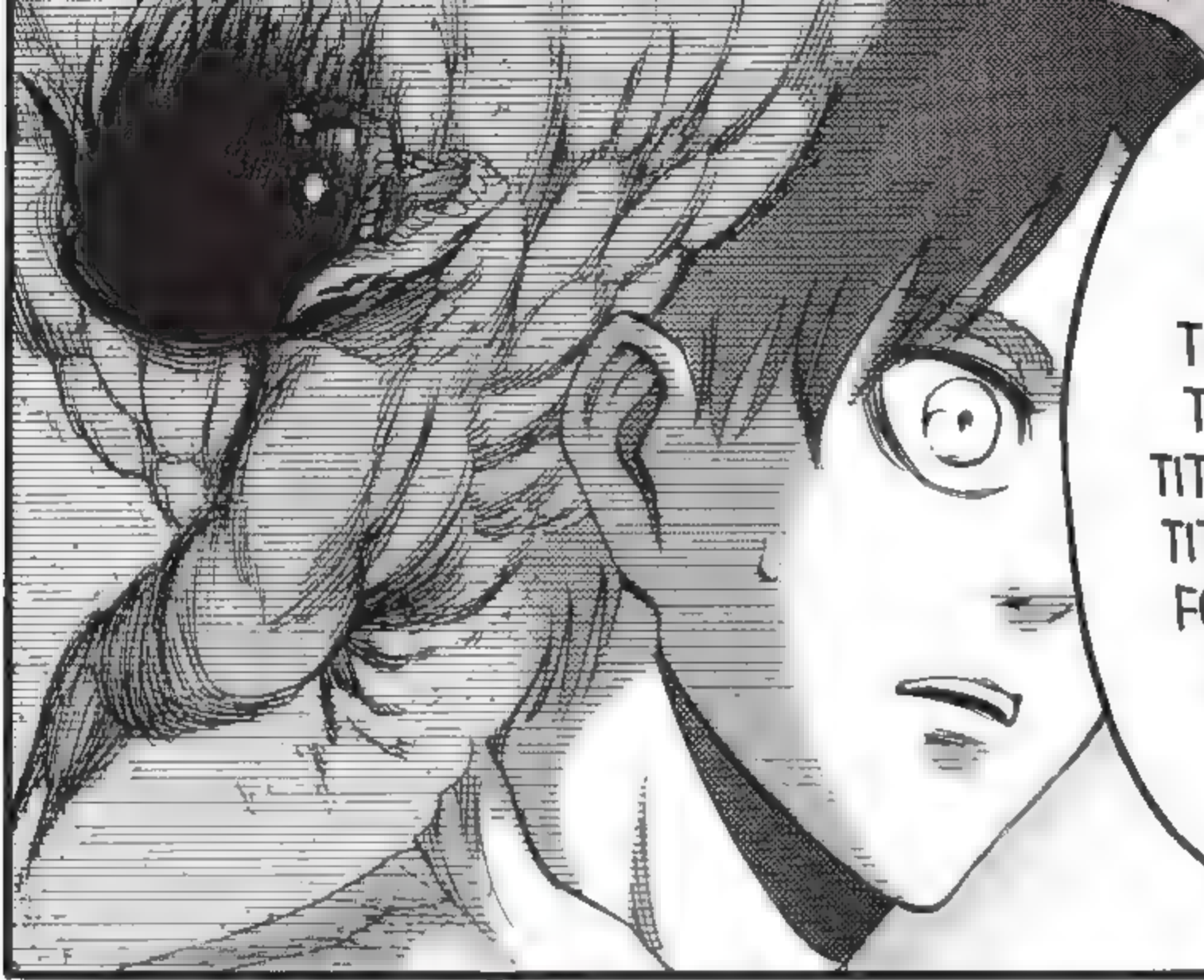
WHAT?

...WAS
VERY
LIGHT.

THE
TITAN'S
BODY...

AND ALL THE TITANS
ARE LIKE THAT... THE
WEIGHT OF A SEVERED
ARM WASN'T NEARLY
WHAT IT SHOULD'VE
BEEN, CONSIDERING
ITS SIZE.

IN THE FIRST
PLACE, THAT TITAN
SHOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
STAND, MUCH LESS
WALK, ON TWO
LEGS.



THEN I HEAR
THAT WHEN YOU
TURNED INTO A
TITAN, EREN, YOUR
TITAN BODY JUST
FORMED UP OUT
OF NOTHING.



...ARE
TOTALLY
DIFFER-
ENT
THINGS.

...IS THAT
WHAT WE
CAN **SEE**
AND THE
TRUE NATURE
OF WHAT
ACTUALLY
EXISTS...



...IS
HAP-
PEN-
ING
...

WHAT
I
THINK
...

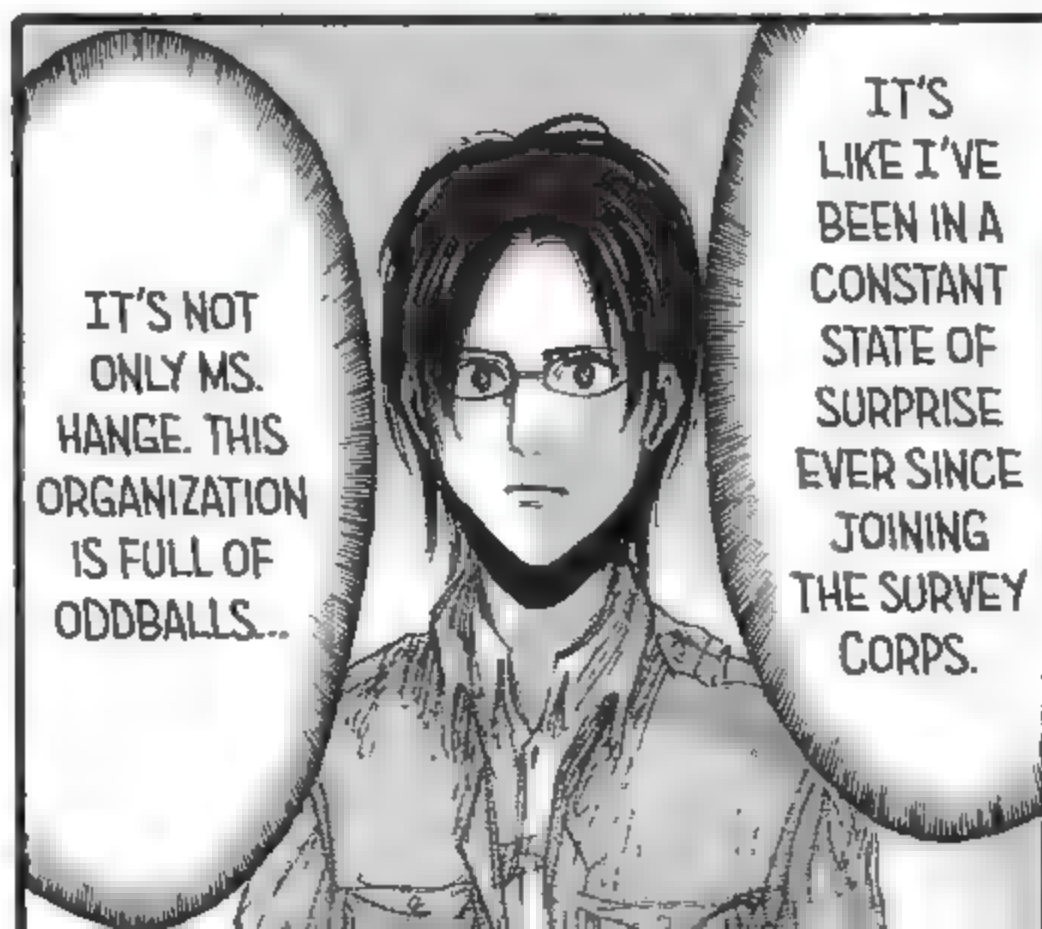
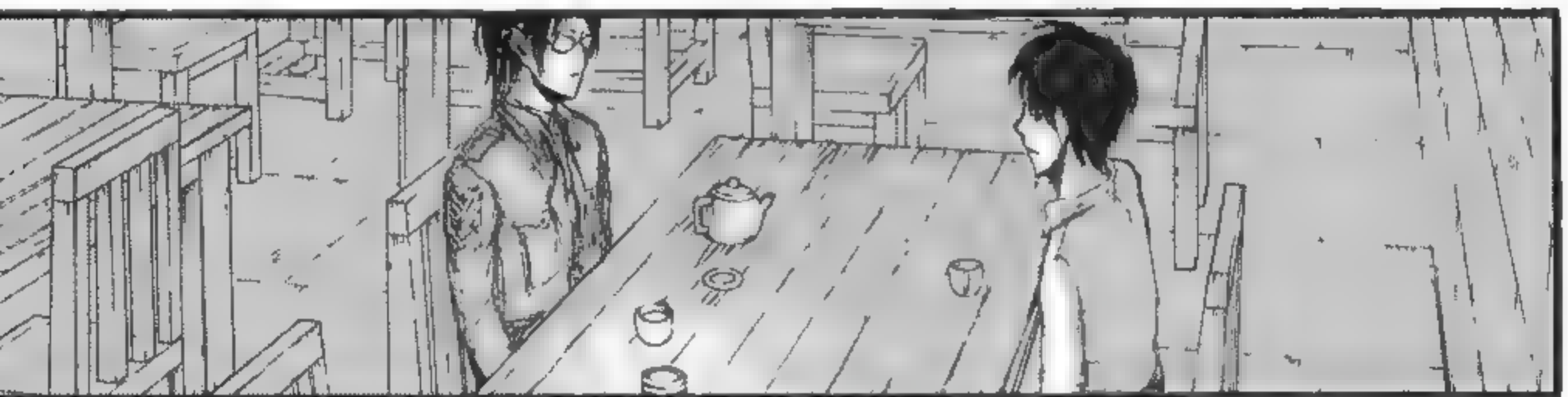


I MAY
JUST BE
SPINNING
MY
WHEELS...

I WANT TO
TRY LOOKING
AT THE TITANS
FROM A
DIFFERENT
ANGLE THAN
THE
PREDOMINANT
VIEW.



FOR
DECADES
NOW,
WE'VE
MADE AN
EFFORT
TO
THRIVE
ON
HATRED
AND MOVE
AGGRES-
SIVELY.





THAT'S
THE
SURVEY
CORPS.

A GROUP
OF PEOPLE
LOOKING TO
CHANGE THE
STATUS
QUO...



AND IF IT
DOES, THAT
COULD MOVE
US ONE STEP
AHEAD.

EREN...
ADDING YOU AS
A COMPONENT
IN THE
EXPERIMENTS
MAY TEACH US
SOMETHING
NEW.



MS.
HANGE
...

THERE'S
NEVER
BEEN A
CHANGE
LIKE THIS
BEFORE.



...BUT
I'M
HAVING
FUN.

IT'S
POSSIBLE
I'M JUST
BEING A PAIN
IN THE ASS
AND
EXPECTING
TOO MUCH
OF YOU...



REALLY?



HM?

IF YOU DON'T
MIND, I'D LIKE
TO HEAR MORE
ABOUT YOUR
EXPERIMENTS.



TRUE, I
DID LEAVE
OUT A LOT IN
MY EXPLANA-
TION...



R-
RIGHT.

IF NOTHING
ELSE, I SHOULD
PROBABLY BE
WELL INFORMED
FOR THE SAKE
OF TOMORROW'S
EXPERIMENT.



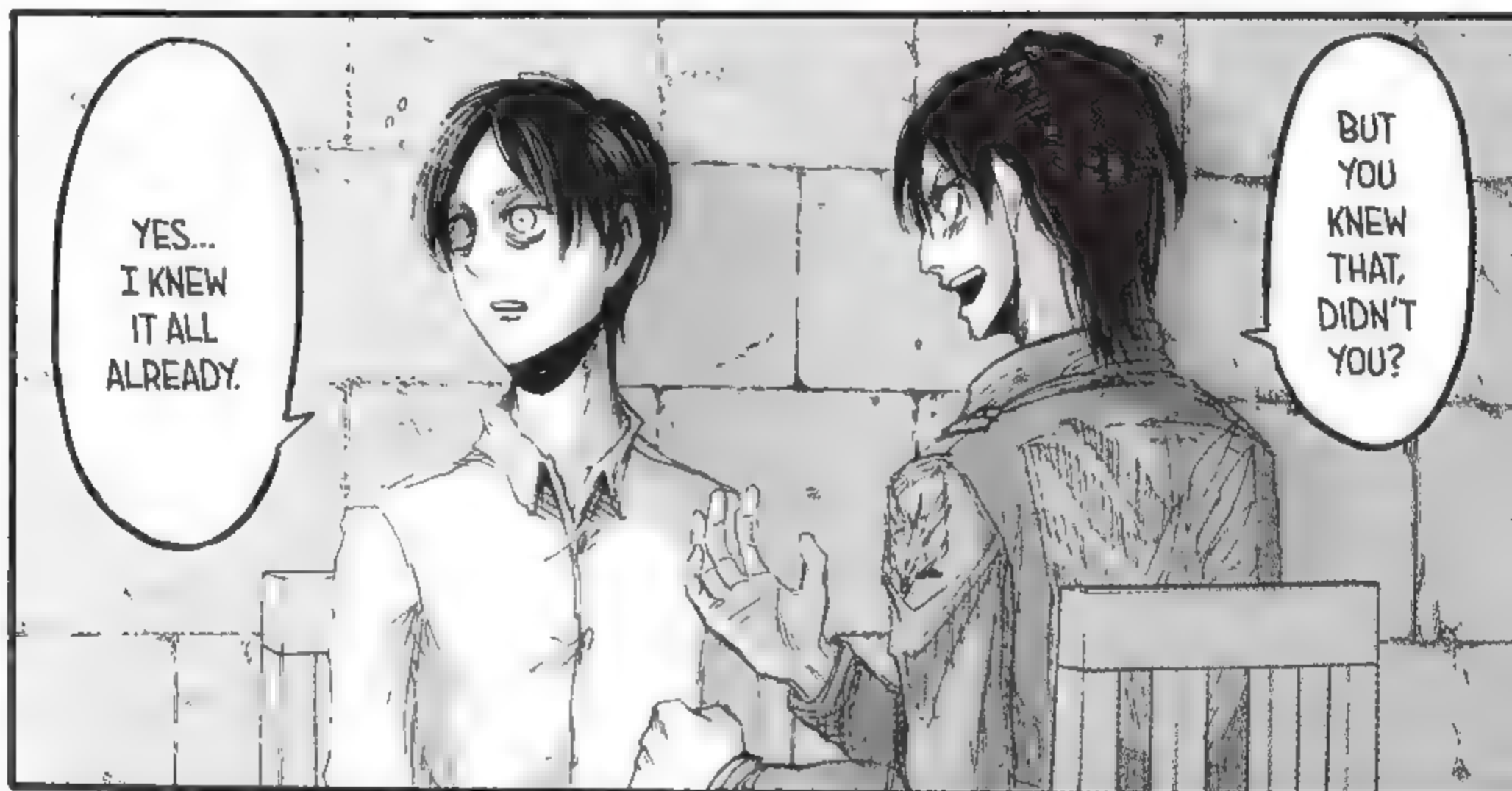
ALTHOUGH
WE MAY
BE HERE
A WHILE...

OKAY,
LET'S
GET INTO
THE
NITTY-
GRITTY.



IN FACT,
EVERYTHING
I'VE TOLD YOU
IS ALREADY
TAUGHT TO
TRAINEES.

...SO I DIDN'T
GET ANY NEW
INFORMATION OUT
OF THIS LATEST
ROUND OF
EXPERIMENTS.



YES...
I KNEW
IT ALL
ALREADY.

BUT
YOU
KNEW
THAT,
DIDN'T
YOU?



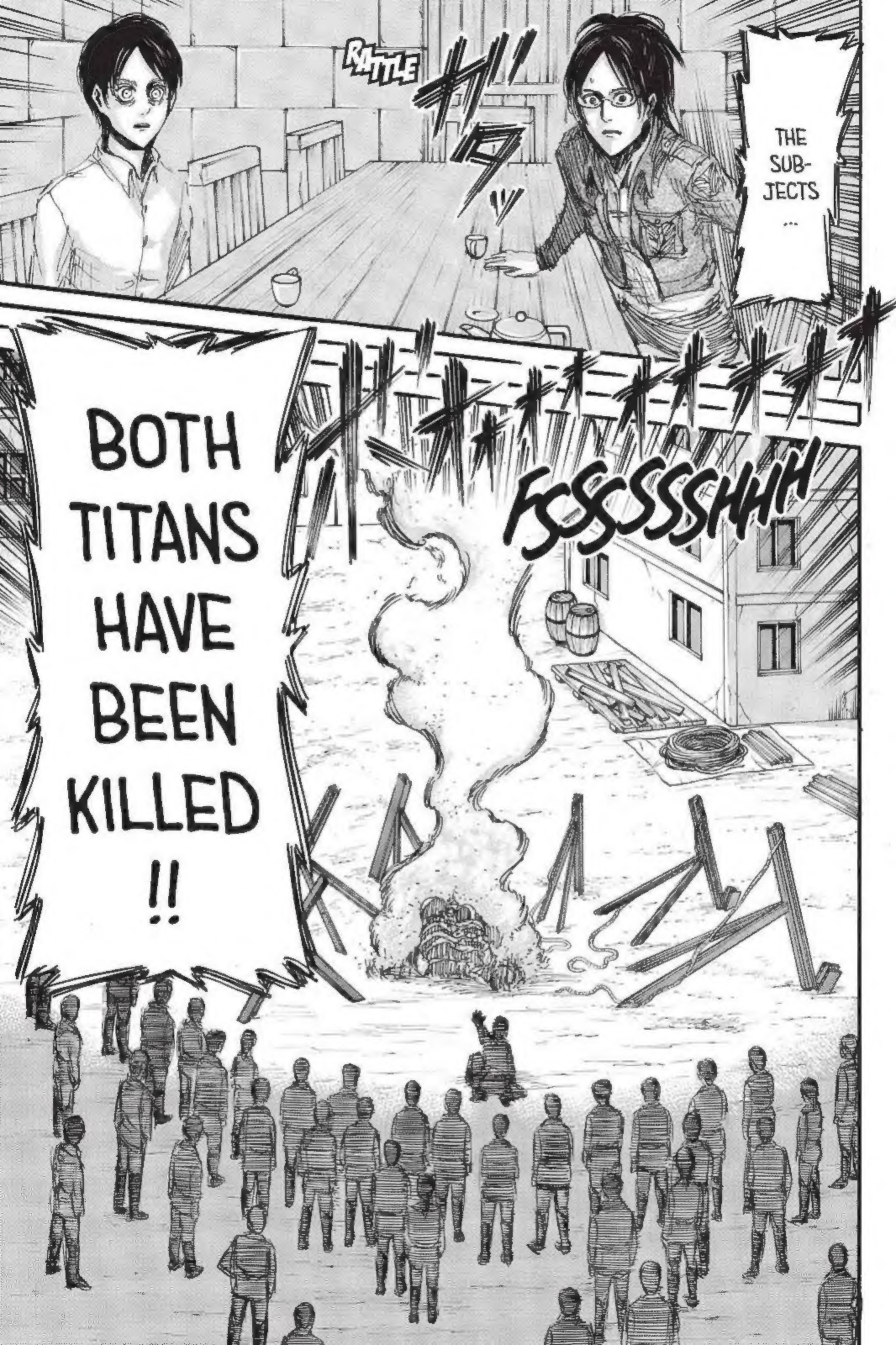
IS
SQUAD
LEADER
HANGE
HERE?

FIRST OF ALL,
REGARDING
COMMUNICATION,
THERE WAS A
CURIOUS CASE
INVOLVING A
SOLDIER NAMED
**ILSE
LANGNAR.**

LOOK
..
IT'S AL-
READY
...

WHAT
?!

THEN LET
ME EXPLAIN
IT TO YOU
AGAIN, THIS
TIME MIXED
IN WITH MY
OWN SPECULA-
TION.



RATTLE

THE
SUB-
JECTS
...

BOTH
TITANS
HAVE
BEEN
KILLED
!!

FSSSSHHH



LOOKS LIKE
THEY WERE BOTH
KILLED AT THE
SAME TIME,
BEFORE DAWN. BY
THE TIME THE
GUARDS NOTICED,
WHOEVER DID IT
HAD ALREADY
GOTTEN AWAY
USING VERTICAL
MANEUVERING
GEAR.

WE
HAVEN'T
FOUND
THE
CULPRIT.

BEAN!

SONY!

NO! DID A
SOLDIER
DO IT?



IF THEY
WEREN'T
MORONS...
THEN WHY'D
THEY DO
IT?

MURMUR
MURMUR

THEY WERE
IMPORTANT
TEST
SUBJECTS.
WHAT KIND
OF MORONS
WOULD...



LOOK
AT
HANGE.
SHE'S
GONE
OFF THE
DEEP
END.

SO
THIS WAS
PRE-
MEDITATED,
WITH TWO
OR MORE
PEOPLE
INVOLVED
...



COM-
MAND
ER!

EREN
...

CHFF



Y-
YES,
SIR.

LET'S
GO...THE
REST IS
UP TO THE
MILITARY
POLICE
BRIGADE.



ATTACK on TITAN